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and in every instance the swollen stems of rusted blueberry grew among or just beneath the infected leaves.

The delicate peridium disappeared in a few days after the escape of the spores, or the infected leaves curled up and fell from the tree. Several collections were made during the summer, the last being on August 15.

W. P. FRASER

PICTOU, N. S.

THE SMOOTH HOUND, AND SOME OTHER FISHES IN NEW JERSEY

AMONG a collection of fishes made during the past season at Corson's Inlet, by Dr. R. J. Phillips, is an interesting fetal shark. It is one of six removed from a female which measured three feet nine inches, taken on May 16, and was attached to the uterus of the mother by a placenta. This fact is interesting in that it points to the alleged essential character distinguishing *Cynais* from *Mustelus*. Upon comparison with other examples from our Atlantic coast, and the types of *Mustelus equestris* Bonaparte (= *Mustelus mustelus*), I find no difference whatever, except as may be allowed due to age. The presence of a lateral cusp on each side of the median one, in the case of the teeth, is distinct in small specimens, but as they grow larger the outer or anterior teeth at least seem to be smoother. I shall therefore feel obliged to consider the common smooth hound along the New Jersey coast to be *Mustelus mustelus*, thus substantiating Dr. Günther's record for New York in 1870. A fine small example of *Elops saurus*, the first definite record for this fish in New Jersey waters, was taken October 9. *Clupea harengus*, taken on June 6, is also the first definite record in New Jersey for that species. Other interesting species obtained are: *Eulamia milberti*, *Anchovia brownii*, *A. mitchilli*, *Kirtlandia vagrans laciniata*, *Menidia menidia notata*, *Mugil cephalus*, *M. curema*, *Selene vomer*, *Trachinotus falcatus*, *Pomatomus saltatrix*, *Orthopristis chrysopterus*, *Stenotomus chrysops*, *Micropogon undulatus*, *Menticirrhus americanus*, *Stephanolepis hispidus*, *Alutera schœpfi*, *Tetodon maculatus*,

Chilomycterus schœpfi, *Myoxocephalus æneus*, *Prionotus carolinus*, *P. evolans strigatus* and *Pseudopleuronectes americanus*.

HENRY W. FOWLER

ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES,
PHILADELPHIA, PA.,
November 6, 1909

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES

THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES SECTION OF BIOLOGY

A REGULAR meeting of this section was held at the American Museum of Natural History on October 11, 1909. In the absence of Mr. Frank M. Chapman, chairman of the section, Professor N. L. Britton presided. The evening was devoted to a paper on "Common Mushrooms and How to Know Them," by Miss Nina L. Marshall.

Miss Marshall, who is the author of a popular book on mushrooms, exhibited a series of beautifully colored slides illustrating the principal types of mushrooms. She dwelt especially on the ecology of the different forms and on their economic importance to man. The distinctive characters of the poisonous and non-poisonous kinds were emphasized.

At the regular meeting held at the American Museum on November 8, 1909, Chairman Frank M. Chapman presiding, the following papers were read:

A Naturalist in the Straits of Magellan: Mr. CHAS. H. TOWNSEND.

The speaker gave an account of personal experiences in the Straits of Magellan while a member of a scientific expedition to that region several years ago. He spoke at length of the more interesting mammals, birds, fishes and plants seen or collected. The paper also dealt with the habits of the native tribes of that region. Those living along the more westerly channels of the straits go almost naked, subsist mainly on shell-fish and, in the speaker's opinion, are the lowest among primitive races of man. They are fast disappearing and should be carefully studied.

The paper was illustrated by lantern slides mostly from photographs by the author.

A Trip through Tropical Mexico: Dr. ALEXANDER PETRUNKEVITCH.

The author spent two months during last summer in the lowlands of tropical Mexico collecting arachnida and other invertebrates for the American Museum of Natural History. The paper